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ADVERTISER/NEWS

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Volume II Number 15

Serving Agawam-Feeding Hills-Southwick

April 10, 1979

### Canadians Visit Agawam



Over this past weekend, the Agawam Hockey Association hosted the Ste. Colette Hockey Association from Montreal North, Canada. The Canadians brought with them nine teams and approximately 100 parents. The weekend of competition saw an evenly matched series of games. The skaters ranged in age from 6 to 16.

The hockey families were treated to an afternoon of roller skating at the Rollaway in Agawam. Two hundred and thirty people tried skating on wheels instead of blades - and only two minor injuries were incurred. On Saturday night almost 200 parents and visiting boys attended the Springfield Indians hockey game. On Sunday afternoon, the busses headed back north filled with tired parents and players. The Agawam Association will visit these same Canadians the weekend of April 27th. The weekend was planned by Mrs. Jeannette Ouellette who did an outstanding job and her committee.

Shown above at a presentation of plaques to the Canadians are, from left to right: Lou Guevin, president of the Agawam Hockey Association; Town Manager Peter Caputo who presented the awards; Mrs. Jeannette Ouellette; and Gerald Lavigne, president of the Ste. Colette Hockey Association. photo by Jack Devine

### Planning Board Hears Beltrandi Proposal

The Planning Board listened to the testimony of developers John Beltrandi and Leon Charkoudian at a public hearing at the Junior High School Thursday night. An estimated 200 residents attended the hearing to listen

to the developers, who are requesting a zone change of some 255 acres off South West Street for a self contained business park.

The hearing, which took approximately three hours, drew mixed response from the

residents in attendance. 52 residents endorsed the park, while 142 opposed it. Nine residents issued public statements in opposition while none of the Beltrandi proponents chose to speak.

Beltrandi began his presentation by describing the colored blueprints which were on display. Planning Board members left the podium to be able to visually follow Beltrandi's explanation of his park. Beltrandi said the northern section of the park, designed for financial, retail and medical centers, "was pretty much set." The developer told board members that there was a high degree of interest from outside businesses to set up

shop in this section of the park.

"The population of Agawam is skilled. The school system produces highly skilled and trained people but they have to go outside of Agawam to get employment," Beltrandi explained. "The growth of business is going right by Agawam and this cannot go on any longer", he added.

Beltrandi said his park would allow for the expansion of small local businesses. He said local merchants would receive first crack at establishing their business in the park. "The intention of this park is not to hurt the area merchants", he said.

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### Vandalism Threatens Y.M.C.A. Programs

This spring, vandals have hit the Agawam Y.M.C.A. with destruction and arson. Mr. George Steffey, Director of the facility said, "Since the first of the year, more than \$5,000 worth of damage has been inflicted upon the facility." During the winter at the facility, Small World, one of Agawam's finest preschools, is run by the "Y".

The destruction has included broken windows, two major fires, one which destroyed the bathhouses and another in the filter room of the swimming pool, the robbery of about \$100 worth of post and rail fence, the destruction of the entrance gate and sign and most recently the destruction of newly built concrete block walls, replacing the bathhouse. In addition, this past Thursday night, over 50 windows were broken.

Mr. Steffey said, the thing that aggravates him, is that it is so senseless and just plain destruction for destruction's sake. Also, in practical terms, it is a serious reality, as the Metropolitan Springfield "Y", whose direction the facility is under, must weigh their investment in the facility, in the face of this destruction.

This month, besides the construction of a new bathhouse, capital monies have also been committed to completely renew the tennis courts, and in anticipation of the extensive family program and day camps, the swimming pool filter must be fixed and the pool newly painted. \$15,000 to \$20,000 is being spent this year to improve the facilities. George Goyer, General Executive Director of the Metropolitan Springfield Y.M.C.A. said, "These are hard decisions, but we believe we have some of the very best programs for families at the facilities and we intend to do everything we can to see to it, that our commitment to serve Agawam is not deterred by disrespect for property and the children who use it."

The most recent developments have brought the Police Chief and town

Detective Bureau in on the situation and an investigation is being made. Mr. Steffey said, "Last fall there were some minor incidents and a letter was sent to several parents, asking for their cooperation." The police continued to make the "Y" part of their regular patrol and increased the frequency of it, but still the vandalism escalated.

Mrs. Mary Ann Dietschler, Chairperson of the Agawam Family Center Committee, which is anticipating a very active summer around the pool and new tennis courts, said "We on the Committee, are now anticipating many new members this year, with the improved facilities and we are putting a lot of our time into planning the programs and personally getting involved in some exciting facility projects, like our tot-lot and rustic playground. This vandalism is discouraging, but we can't let it threaten our programs."

The question before Mr. Steffey and Mr. Goyer is, what is the alternative? If they can catch the vandals, they must prosecute, even as much as this is contrary to the youth work of the association. In their opinion, the situation calls for an even more aggressive attempt to reach the kids, before they start to be destructive. Already in Agawam, in addition to the Day Camps, the Pre-school, the Grade school programs and the summer Family programs, they have a part-time outreach worker, working with high school students. Steve Vick, spends 10 hours a week, relating to the Teens in the high school and all over town. The directors believe a lot more of what Steve is seeking to do, needs to be looked at, as well as, some attractive programs for the junior high and middle school youngsters.

But in the immediate future, the vandalism must be stopped. Perhaps greater public awareness will help and involvement by families in the "Y" will surely be a step in the right direction, for the future.

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

6:30 THE GREAT BRAIN (G-1:30)  
8:00 ISLANDS IN THE STREAM (PG-1:44)  
10:00 AAU Boxing: SAN DIEGO AT LOS ANGELES  
11:30 THE CHOIRBOYS (R-1:59)

5:30 ELMER (G-1:30)  
7:00 Special: THE HOLLYWOOD CLOWNS  
8:00 Standing Room Only: A TRIBUTE TO NEIL SIMON  
9:30 THE GOODBYE GIRL (PG-1:50)  
11:30 RABBIT TEST (PG-1:26)  
1:00 THE WILD GEESSE (R-2:15)

3:00 Special: THE HOLLYWOOD CLOWNS  
4:00 ELMER (G-1:30)  
5:30 RACE FOR THE PENNANT - PREVIEW  
6:30 AAU Boxing: SAN DIEGO AT LOS ANGELES  
8:00 CIRCUS  
9:00 JULIA (PG-1:56)  
11:00 Special: THE HOLLYWOOD CLOWNS  
12:00 THE GREAT TEXAS DYNAMITE CHASE (R-1:29)

1:30 SPORTSCENE  
2:30 THE GOODBYE GIRL (PG-1:50)  
4:30 Standing Room Only: A TRIBUTE TO NEIL SIMON  
6:00 MURDER BY DEATH (PG-1:34)  
8:00 THE CHEAP DETECTIVE (PG-1:32)  
9:30 THE GOODBYE GIRL (PG-1:50)  
11:30 ISLANDS IN THE STREAM (PG-1:44)

5:30 THE BAD NEWS BEARS IN BREAKING TRAINING (PG-1:37)  
7:30 THE GREAT BRAIN (G-1:30)  
9:00 THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA (R-1:45)  
11:00 THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH (PG-1:30)  
12:30 THE HIDING PLACE (PG-2:25)

6:00 JULIA (PG-1:56)  
8:00 Special: UP CLOSE  
9:00 RACE FOR THE PENNANT - PREVIEW  
10:00 Standing Room Only: A TRIBUTE TO NEIL SIMON  
11:30 ACES HIGH (PG-1:54)

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The Agawam Advertiser/News is published every Tuesday by the Agawam Advertiser/News (USPS 001-170), 391 Springfield St., Agawam, Mass. 01001. Second Class postage paid at Agawam, Mass. Post Office, 01001. Mailing address: P.O. Box 233, Agawam, Mass. 01001. Telephone No. 786-7747. Subscription price \$5.50 per year. Newsstand price \$1.5 per copy. Advertising and news deadline is noon on the Friday before publication.

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New Logo for Annual Appeal

This logotype, developed by Ronald J. Perrault of West Springfield, has been adopted by the central planning committee of the Annual Catholic Stewardship Appeal. It will appear on all of the printed materials used by the Appeal's volunteer workers and on billboards, bumper stickers publicizing the May 6-14 campaign in the four counties of the Diocese of Springfield.

Natural Foods Workshop

A one-day workshop on natural foods will be held at the Ston emill Natural Foods Market on Saturday, April 21, from 10:30 to 3:30. A fee of \$12.50 will be charged, including lunch.

This 5-hour workshop will explore diet and health and then will involve cooking a natural foods lunch in which everyone can participate and eat.

There will be natural foods snacks and recipe sheets. Participants are encouraged to bring a good appetite along with their questions.

For further information, call 733-7375.

AYC Seeks Vocational Counselors

The Agawam Youth Center provides vocational counseling and job placement and is seeking apprenticeships and skill training from individuals, sub-contractors, and organizations in the Agawam area.

If you feel you may help us, please contact the Agawam Youth Center, 497 Springfield Street, or call 786-1280.

Brush Disposal Area Reopens

The Agawam Department of Public Works wishes to announce that the brush disposal area located at the end of Tennis Road will reopen on Saturday, April 14.

This facility is operated strictly for the benefit of Agawam residents only, and all users must have a disposal permit. These permits are available at the DPW office at 36 Main Street.

The facility is available for the disposal of brush, stumps, branches, and leaves. It will be open only on Saturdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. An attendant will be on duty during these hours to direct and assist the residents.

School Committee

The Agawam School Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Agawam Junior High School, Springfield Street, Agawam.

School Lunch Menus

Agawam School Menu

Wednesday, April 11: Roasted turkey w/ brown gravy on mashed potatoes, buttered sweet peas & carrots, cranberry sauce, bread & butter, sweet potato cake, milk  
Thursday, April 12: Baked pork cutlet w/applesauce, buttered corn niblets, rye bread & butter, ice cream, milk  
Friday, April 13: NO SCHOOL - GOOD FRIDAY

Southwick School Menu

Wednesday, April 11: Beef in gravy, whipped potatoes, buttered green beans, bread & butter, apple crisp, milk  
Thursday, April 12: Tacos w/lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese, Mexican corn, chilled peaches, milk  
Friday, April 13: NO SCHOOL - GOOD FRIDAY

Agawam Senior Center Wright Street

4/16: Holiday - Patriots' Day  
4/17: Pork choplets, mashed potatoes, beets, turnovers  
4/18: Corned beef hash, red cabbage salad, lemon pudding  
4/19: Manicotti, corn, peaches  
4/20: Batter-crisp fish, hash brown potatoes, carrots, cookies

Be sure not to miss our movie on April 11 and 12. We are showing the well-known "The Gospel According to St. Matthew," an unforgettable experience. We had to reserve this movie back in September in order to get it for this week, so come and enjoy it. You will not regret it! Next hypertension clinic April 17 for L-Z names. Our May trip will treat you again to our annual dinner at the Riverboat restaurant. We leave at 10:30 on May 22 (Tuesday) and the price is \$13. The first bus will visit the Emily Dickinson house in Amherst; the second bus will visit the Porter Phelps Huntington House in Hadley. We have to split up the buses since neither of the two can accommodate more than one bus. There will also be another stop to be decided later.

Spring Clean-Up Schedule

The Agawam Department of Public Works wishes to announce to the residents of Agawam that the annual Spring Clean-Up will be conducted April 30 through May 10. The Clean-Up collection will be on the same date as the regular bi-weekly rubbish collection.

The materials to be collected in the Spring Clean-Up should be placed on the treebelt separate and apart from the regular household rubbish, and different vehicles will be used for the two collections.

Materials to be collected in the Spring Clean-Up are solid wastes including, but not limited to, rubber tires, automobile parts, demolition waste, plumbing fixtures, furniture, mattresses, bedsprings, refrigerators, stoves, water heaters, metal pipes, and other bulky wastes.

Materials specifically EXCLUDED from this special collection are garbage, automobile chassis, bodies and motors, tree stumps, and branches.

Materials to be collected must be on the treebelt by 7 a.m. of the collection day. All small or loose items must be placed in plastic bags or in containers having a maximum capacity of 30 gallons.

The schedule for the collection is as follows:

- April 30: Route 5
- May 1: Route 6
- May 2: Route 7
- May 3: Route 8
- May 7: Route 1
- May 8: Route 2
- May 9: Route 3
- May 10: Route 4

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## Agawam Business Association Criticizes Library Review Committee's Report

A member of the Agawam Businessmen's Association today criticized the report of the Library Review Committee and said the ABA's Board of Directors will be meeting April 12 to discuss the report and determine if future action is warranted.

Arthur Leary, owner of Country Squire Furniture, told the Advertiser/News that the four member review panel, set up by Town Manager Peter Caputo to review the procedures taken in the construction of the new Library on Cooper Street by the Library Building Committee, "failed in their task of answering the questions submitted by an Ad Hoc panel of the Businessman's Association."

Last week the Review Committee submitted a report to Caputo containing five recommendations for future building committees to follow. The Review Committee suggested that the architect and clerk of works be hired by the Building Committee with approval from the Town Manager, copies of the minutes of all governmental bodies be filed in the Town Clerk's office within 30 days of acceptance, that a minimum of five persons should serve on the building committee with no elected or appointed official serving as a member, and that the Town hire a qualified federal grants officer. Caputo commended the Review Board for their efforts and said he "would consider" implementing all of the recommendations submitted by the Review Board.

According to Leary, the Building Committee, of Richard Borgatti, Paul Fieldstad and George Bickford refused to answer the questions submitted by

the Businessman's Association during the Review Board's investigation.

"They just refused to answer the questions to the board of review. I think it's appalling and scary that our democratic process would break down like that", Leary said.

Leary said the Review Board had 3 functions; to receive questions from the Businessman's Association, to answer the questions submitted, and then to make a report of their findings to the Town Manager.

"And they just didn't do it", Leary added.

Review Board member Renee Thomas said his group were not a "grand jury" and that as far as he was concerned, the Review Board did the job required of them.

"I really don't know what the Businessman's Association is looking for", Thomas said. "I am satisfied with our report."

Leary charged the Building Committee with failing to properly bid the Cultural Arts Shell which was voted down by the Town Council. According to Leary, Fontaine Construction of Springfield received the contract for the proposed arts facility. Leary said that \$8,100 was spent on the Cultural Arts Shell including \$4,600 for design and \$3,500 in land work.

"I think the taxpayers of Agawam should know that money was wasted. The Building Committee was charged to build a library and not a Cultural Arts Shell, as we read it. If you paid me \$8,000 to dig a hole in your backyard then have it filled in, you'd be mad too.", Leary related.

Leary also criticized the Building Committee for not

putting out to bid a \$4,000 horse shoe table which is a recreational piece for the facility. He further scored the committee for not being "informed" in the proper procedures in following the guidelines in a federal grant during the library's construction. "They ran the construction like a club and not a committee.", Leary charged.

Fieldstad said the committee did follow federal guidelines in a correct manner, adding, "we did what was expected of us. We were not just playing games."

Borgatti said the building committee followed the necessary procedures in putting contracts out to bid. Borgatti said the contract for Fontaine Construction was a "change order" and that the committee acted legally in this procedure.

Borgatti stated that he was disappointed with the findings of the Review Board. Borgatti feels the Review Board did not answer the questions submitted by the ABA. "The Review Board had a tough job to do, but I really don't think they proved whether there were irregularities in our procedures, pro or con.", he said.

According to Fieldstad, Leary became involved in investigating the Building Committee when his firm did not receive the bid on the furniture for the facility.

Fieldstad said that no member of the ABA attended any meeting of his body prior to the Review Board's investigation, or after it had begun. Fieldstad further said no member of the ABA ever came to him about the alleged irregularities in the Building Committee's procedures, and that the Ad

Hoc committee of the ABA was not authorized by the general membership of the ABA to ask Caputo for an investigation until after they had already spoken to the Manager.

Fieldstad agreed with Borgatti that the recommendations submitted by the Review Board did not indicate whether the Building Committee conducted their affairs in a proper or improper manner. Last week, review board member Raymond Saracino said the Building Committee acted "within the law" in the construction of the library. Saracino observed that the five recommendations given

to Caputo would provide Agawam "with better safeguards in the future construction of public facilities."

Borgatti said the \$800,000 price tag on the facility was a figure that local officials were well aware of prior to the construction of the building. \$603,000 came from a federal grant while the Town paid \$197,000 to complete the structure. There has been some question on how much the Town will be reimbursed in funds, and, according to Borgatti, "this is not known at the moment." Borgatti said the Town Council approved the \$800,000 figure long before the actual construction

began.

Borgatti stated he agreed with the Review Board's recommendation of posting the Building Committee's minutes within 30 days of acceptance. "Maybe the minutes should have been accepted and then be posted in the Town Hall, this will keep the community involved.", Borgatti said.

He added that he does not agree with the contention that no elected officials sit on future building committees. "If a school was being put up then a School Board member should sit on the committee in charge of putting it up", he explained.

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# Social

## JoAnn Lavallee Engaged to Wed

The engagement of JoAnn Lavallee, daughter of Mrs. Joseph A. Lavallee of 304 Silver Street, Agawam, and the late Mr. Lavallee, has been announced to Paul Domenic DiDonato, son of Mr. and Mrs. Domenic DiDonato of 242 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Miss Lavallee is a graduate of Agawam High School and is employed by the Charles C. Lewis Company, Springfield.

Mr. DiDonato also graduated from Agawam High School and from Wentworth Institute of Technology. He presently attends Northeastern University and is employed as a nuclear quality assurance engineer by Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation, Boston.

Their wedding is planned for November 17 at Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills.

## Grange Meeting Scheduled

Community Grange will meet Tuesday evening, April 17, at 7:30 in the Grange Home on North West Street.

The Junior Grange will be guests and will occupy the officers' chairs. During the program a graduation service will be held for two members of the Junior Grange move up to the Subordinate Grange. A miscellaneous program will complete the evening's entertainment.

A social hour will follow the program with the refreshment committee consisting of Margaret and George Parrott, Jackie Cavanaugh, Kitty and Edgar Gillis.



The Agawam Golden Ager's recently installed new officers at their annual banquet. Seated from left to right: Mary Demersky, Emiline Comeau, and Alice Squazza. Standing are Mike Jabury, Kay Aldrich and Sam Joyce. photo by Jack Devine

## Record Hop Benefit Slated

The Western Massachusetts Division of the American Heart Association in conjunction with the Silver Carriage Inn, 1520 Main Street, Agawam, will sponsor a "50's, 60's, 70's Record Hop" on Friday, April 27th from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Virgo Jack will deejay the event, which will include free hors d'oeuvres, dancing, contests, and prizes.

Tickets are \$3 and are tax deductible. They will be available at the door or beforehand at the Silver Carriage Inn (786-0265) and the Heart Office (732-4121).

## Jaycees Will Sponsor Forum On Kennedy Assassination

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated more than 15 years ago, but the questions surrounding his death have again surfaced into the public eye.

Locally, the public will have the opportunity to hear a truly remarkable and factual account of the assassination on Monday evening, April 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Baptist Church (Bodurtha Hall). A nominal donation will be accepted.

Sponsored by the Agawam Jaycees, the lecture will focus on the Warren Commission Report. The speaker will be John H. Gordon, Assistant Director of Admissions at Western New England College, where he also teaches a course on the Kennedy assassination, one of the two such courses in the country.

Gordon first became interested in the Kennedy case while he was a history major at Hamilton College. Since that time, he has actively pursued this interest, interviewing people connected with the assassination, visiting Dealey Plaza in Dallas (the site of the assassination), and reading a tremendous amount of literature on the subject.

During the course of his investigation, Gordon has developed a close rapport with such noted individuals as

Texas newspaper editor Penn Jones Jr., who has traced the mysterious deaths of nearly 100 people who knew about the assassination, and Richard Sprague, an expert on the photographic evidence of the assassination. Sprague believes the media have covered up what really happened that November, 1963, in Dallas.

Gordon himself will be showing rarely seen and actual film footage that was taken at the actual moment of the assassination. Gordon's own investigative work has now convinced him: "If you believe in the Warren Commission Report which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin, then you believe in the tooth fairy."

Ted Zern, president of the Agawam Jaycees, commented, "I have seldom heard a more convincing report than Gordon's. It is a hard-hitting, seemingly factual, and frightening account."

The public will not want to miss this opportunity to hear about a subject that touched many Americans. Reserve April 16 on your calendars and join the Jaycees at the Agawam Baptist Church Bodurtha Hall. Limited seating is available.

## WAABI Meeting Scheduled

The Springfield Chapter of the Women's Association of Allied Beverage Industries will hold their annual Election Night meeting on Tuesday, April 17, at the Fort restaurant, Springfield. Social hour starts at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7:00. Evelyn Lodi is chairman of the meeting.

## Scout Awards Dinner Scheduled

The annual Awards Dinner for the Knox Trail District, Boy Scouts of America will be held on Wednesday, April 25, at the Squires restaurant, 15 King Street, Agawam, with a social hour at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Following dinner, various awards will be presented along with the District Awards of Merit for the Knox Trail District.

All unit leaders, committee-men, and friends of scouting are invited. Tickets may be obtained at the Scout Service Center, 1639 Riverdale Road, West Springfield. Deadline for reservations is April 18.

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## Flea Market Date Set

Starting their seventh year in succession, the Agawam Congregational Church Ladies Aid Society will hold its Flea Market again on June 9th (rain date will be the 16th). The hours are set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the event will feature a snack bar and free parking and admission.

Dealers' spaces are available and should be reserved as soon as possible. For further information, call Mrs. Donald Fogg, 22 Clematis Road, Agawam.

# SPECIAL OF THE WEEK

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## The YMCA In Agawam Part II - The Present

The present facilities of the YMCA in Agawam consist of 34.43 acres located near the center of town. On the property presently, there are a parking lot that can accommodate approximately 50 cars, a two-story, 6-room farmhouse, a pre-school building, a large swimming pool, three asphalt tennis courts, a large pavilion, a store, and bath houses. There are three inter-connecting streams on the property and 25 acres of wooded, undeveloped land. Access to the property at present is from the corner of Mill Street and Perry Lane.

At the property, the "Y" offers a winter club program for elementary school children, the Small World pre-school, two summer day camps (Camp Little Stream for 3-5 year olds and Camp Summatime for 6-12 year olds) and a family, summer outdoor recreation center. The "Y" also offers swimming lessons year round utilizing the Agawam Junior High pool in the winter.

During the 1978 year, the YMCA in Agawam had 474 day camper slots filled, approximately 500 swimming participants, 80 children in the pre-school, and a total membership in the Outdoor Center of 442. Significant among the statistics is that the family memberships in the Outdoor Recreation Center grew by 250% over the 1977 summer season. In our town that is rapidly expanding with young families, the YMCA may be the place families will choose to meet others and enjoy themselves inexpensively.

The present director is Mr. George Steffey, who also serves at the Metropolitan Springfield YMCA of which Agawam facilities and programs are a part. He serves there as Associate Director of Youth and Family Services and is responsible for their Parent/Child programs as well as others related to teens

### Bike-'N-Hike Benefit Set

The Springfield Life Underwriters Association will sponsor a Bike-'n-Hike-'n-Jog on Saturday, April 28th in the center of Longmeadow.

The 5-mile circular route was used last year, and it starts at Longmeadow High School, Bliss Road, Converse Street, Williams Street, Laurel Street, and Bliss Road. Participants will obtain sponsors in advance of the event; however, no collection of funds will be done by the participants. All pledge notifications will be done by the host organization, the Lung Association.

This event is open to all age groups, and family participation is encouraged. Prizes and awards will be available for all.

A 10-speed bike, trophies, \$25 savings bonds, and refreshments have been donated by Steiger's stores, Security National Bank, Westbnk, and McDonalds.

Brochures and sponsor booklets are available in the schools or by calling the Western Mass. Lung Association at 737-3506. Dave Scott, WHYN news anchorman, will again be participating in the event with his family.

Call your Lung Association for more information and show that you care about "Every Breath You Take."

and adults.

Mr. Steffey believes the potential of the YMCA serving Agawam is unlimited, but the key is to get the community involved as it once was 8 or 10 years ago. As part of this effort at community involvement, a lay committee for program planning, property improvement, and promotion has been formed and is working hard. Some of their work involved building a recycled, rustic playground, and planning many ambitious family programs for the summer members.

The Agawam Rotary has put its support behind the "Y" and is involved in helping to put a driveway into the back part of the property off Elm

Street to encourage the development and use of the 20 acres that could be a playfield and expanded day camp area.

"This is really a new beginning for the YMCA in Agawam," said Mr. Steffey. "With the Suffield and Enfield Branch "Y" closings in the past couple of years and the continued population increase in Agawam, now is the time to pick up on the plans and dreams that many in the past had for the YMCA in our town."

Membership in the Amily Center is only \$95 for the 1979 season, and the two day camp prices are \$30 for Camp Little Stream and \$50 for Camp Summatime for each two-week session.

(Next-Part III-The Future)



Shown at the recent Cancer kick-off drive at the Rollaway in Agawam are, from left to right: Ruth Zucco, Agawam's Cancer Crusade Chairman; Mrs. Susan Maiolo, owner of the Rollaway; David Maiola, manager of the Rollaway; and Ted Twarog, Special Events Chairman for the Crusade. photo by Jack Devine

# THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE!



### Roman Health Spa has left Agawam. European Health Spas has arrived.

There's been a change for the better! The former Roman Health Spa is now the newest facility in the world's largest chain of physical fitness centers for men and women! And you're invited to stop in and get acquainted.

Come see what a difference European makes. It's more than a new name... it's a new brand of dedication and service to the community. And a bright new look. Right now we are painting, polishing, tiling, carpeting, decorating and improving the facilities to provide the community with the most beautiful health club you've ever seen.

Be our guest for a day and discover why European is the world's leader. Only European offers the free Fitness Quotient Test, plus personalized programs of exercise and diet designed to meet your individual goals!

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The Agawam Athletic Association also received a donation from the Police Association. Shown accepting check on behalf of the Agawam A.A. is Barbara Goehlert. Left is Det. Edward Borgatti and right is Sgt. Frank Evangelist. photo by Jack Devine.

## Police Association Makes Donations

The Agawam Police Association, after successfully completing a recent fund-raising effort, has been able to make substantial donations to youth programs in Agawam.

They were able to donate \$1,000 to the Agawam Athletic Association, \$1,000 to the Sacred Heart Athletic Association, and \$200 to the Safety Patrol/Washington

D.C. trip. All of these programs have direct benefit for children of a wide variety of ages.

The Police Association feels that our youth is well worth the time, effort, and contributions - of all types and natures - that make all of the concerted efforts of various interests effective. One organization alone would find it very difficult to accomplish what several collectively can do to sustain the many productive programs now in existence.

The Agawam Police Association would like to thank all who gave fine support toward the continuing maintenance of the youth programs of Agawam.



Members of the Sacred Heart Athletic Association were on hand to receive donation from the Agawam Police Association. The donation made from proceeds of the recent Country and Western show sponsored by the Police Association. Pictured above are, from left to right, front row: Sgt. Frank Evangelist, Secretary of the Police Association; Det. Edward Borgatti, president of the Police Association; and Father Paul Burns, director of the Sacred Heart Athletic Association. In the back row are association members, Ken Peck, Juanita Vanasse, Tom Fetherston, Wayne Page, Bill McCarthy, and Phil Vecchiarelli. photo by Jack Devine

## Post 185 to Present Awards

The Wilson Thompson Post 185 Inc. of the American Legion is announcing its Post Commander's Night. This is the first year for this event which is a dinner at which awards will be given various members. The chairman of the event is P.C. Ed Hottin.

The date for this is April 14th with dinner to be served at 6:00 p.m. at the Wilson Thompson Post 185. Town Manager Peter Caputo will be guest speaker.

Receiving awards will be the following: Walter D. Stebbins; Francis K. Brutnell; Henry L. McGowan and Chester J. Krukowski.

## Government-School Groups Unite on Tax Cap Bill

Local government associations have joined school groups in supporting the version of the tax cap bill developed by the legislature's Taxation Committee, it was announced this week after a joint meeting of officials held in Auburn, Massachusetts.

The Taxation Committee bill would allow local governments an inflationary increase of 4% on last year's spending figure. The 4% figure matches the proposed increase in the state's budget, but falls far short of the 9.6% overall inflation rate for the country. Both the school and local government officials noted that any tax cap "must have some flexibility."

Representatives expressed a concern that state aid would not be great enough to replace the revenue local governments need to provide services. "The less money there is available for local aid, the more important it is to have a flexible tax cap", stated George Hill, Executive Director of the Mass. Association of School Superintendents.

"These two issues, the amount of local aid and the tax cap restrictions are so intertwined that they cannot be separated," stated John Lovejoy, Vice President of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association.

Municipal and education officials will closely study issues regarding distribution of local aid.

Local officials also discussed the importance of passing the Third Party Payments bill (H-3238). This bill would allow local governments an estimated \$42 million to offset the cost of providing the human services to children required under "Chapter 766", the state's Special Education Act. This program costs local governments approximately \$280 - \$300 million a year.

The Municipal Education Coalition meets, as needed, approximately once a month to allow school and education officials to work together on issues of major fiscal interest, such as the state's "tax cap" legislation. The following organizations are represented on the Coalition: Massachusetts Association of School Committees; Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents; Association of Town Finance Committees; Massachusetts Mayors' Association; Massachusetts Municipal Management Association; Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns; Massachusetts Selectmen's Association.



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**DONALD TEBALDI, Shop Foreman**

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## Happy Easter!

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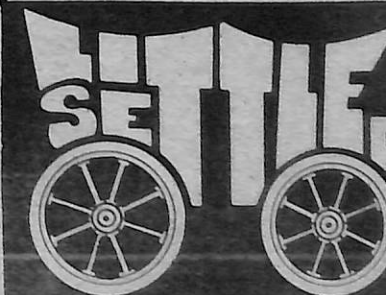
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## Stamps and Stories Available at Post Office

The easiest way to learn about philately is to read the book, *Stamps & Stories*, which is available at the post office, (stations and branches if applicable). Postmaster Robert R. DeForge of Agawam said today.

The Postmaster's advice was in response to inquiries about how to start collecting stamps, which has become the most popular hobby in the world.

*Stamps & Stories* is a 240 page miniature encyclopedia useful for both the beginning collector and the professional. It tells how to start stamp collecting, provides color reproductions of every U.S. postage stamp issue, lists 1979 stamp values of all prior issues, offers 100 stories which give the history of stamps, and lists the latest prices for plate blocks and sheets of stamps as well as first day covers.

"The fun and educational rewards of stamp collecting are unlimited", the Postmaster said, "and there are so many ways to get started. Two of the most popular are topical collecting and commemorative stamp collecting."

Postmaster DeForge said that for two weeks beginning April 16, all window clerks will have available for customer inspection copies of *Stamps & Stories*, recent mint sets of stamps and topical collecting kits on a variety of subjects.

The educational effort is part of a "What's Philately?" nationwide program being sponsored by the Postal Service, the Postmaster said.

continued from page 1

Beltrandi said there would be a timetable for the completion of the park and the northern section of it would take at least 3 years to complete. The developer further stated that at this point in time, there are no services for the other end of the park. According to Beltrandi, all supportive services for the northern section are available now, except for fire protection, which would come under the Town's jurisdiction.

Charkoudian told the board that they were willing to sign an agreement with the town restricting them to their original business concept. There had been much speculation from some residents and town officials that once the developer received the zone change, he would not follow his original intent. Beltrandi flatly denied this would happen. "By signing the covenant, it would prove our good faith to the Town", he reminded some residents in the audience who had voiced their concern over this.

One resident asked the Planning Board if this covenant would have a legal binding effect on the developers. Town attorney Richard Morassi said that in his estimation, "there is no binding effect." "Our zoning laws do not allow municipalities to bully developers. We could conceivably draw something up, but I have not seen something like this done before," Morassi stated.

Another resident asked Beltrandi to outline his plans for the condominium complex, which according to

the developer, could be up to 250 units. "I think our plans for our living facilities show good planning," Beltrandi said. "Housing may be 8 years down the road. I really want more business than condominiums to come in, because there is more money in business coming in than putting up residential dwellings."

Board member Robert Bergin quizzed the developer on how essential the completion of Route 57 is to the park. Beltrandi replied that the highway's extension was not essential to his park, "but it would be a plus", he added.

Beltrandi and Charkoudian also re-affirmed their offer to set up an architectural review board and a citizen advisory group to aid in the monitoring of the site. "This committee would be made up of responsible abutters that will have authority," Beltrandi related.

Elizabeth Kidder, a representative of the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission, said that body felt Agawam would be inconsistent with the Town's Master Plan if the business park was allowed to proceed. Kidder said that at this time, it would be unfeasible to access the market impact on the town until a full study was done. Kidder also cited a number of other problems which could possibly arise from a project of this magnitude, including traffic in the Feeding Hills area. Kidder appeared before the board on their request.

In a report submitted by acting Town engineer John Savioli, it was noted that "if the proposed Route 57 is not constructed, it would result in

a major impact on existing Town streets and intersections." A report from the Conservation Commission said Beltrandi has taken "positive steps" to protect the natural state of wetlands and brooks. The Commission, according to the report filed by Chairman Ronald J. Lech, would have to hire a consultant to review the project due to "its size and drainage problems involved."

The report said it would be impossible for the Commission to be specific on how the development will or will not effect the environment without a consultant with professional hydrologist skills.

A report from Public Safety Officer Sgt. Alfred Longhi said that without the completion of Route 57 and

without exit ramps onto and off South West Street, it would be impossible to handle the traffic created by the zone change.

Charkoudian said that up to 400 single family homes would be constructed on this land in the next ten years if the zone change does not go through. Charkoudian said he is not interested in any duplex housing on the land if rezoned, and would sign an agreement with the town to re-affirm this.

According to Charkoudian, the land he and Beltrandi wish to develop has not had any productive purposes "for some 10-15 years." "We have to fact up to the reality that any re-zoning this land, it will be getting its best possible use in real terms."

This area regionally is pathetic for business growth," he added.

Charkoudian criticized the LPVRPC for diversifying the region economically. Beltrandi said Sixty Trust Fund of Rhode Island currently holds title to the land. He said the land is under option until November 11 when the agreement will expire. According to the developer, he has investors lined up for the purchase of the land.

The Town Council has set an April 25 date for a public hearing on the Beltrandi-Charkoudian proposal. The Planning Board's recommendation is advisory in nature. The 15 elected officials have lined up to approve or nix the project.



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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

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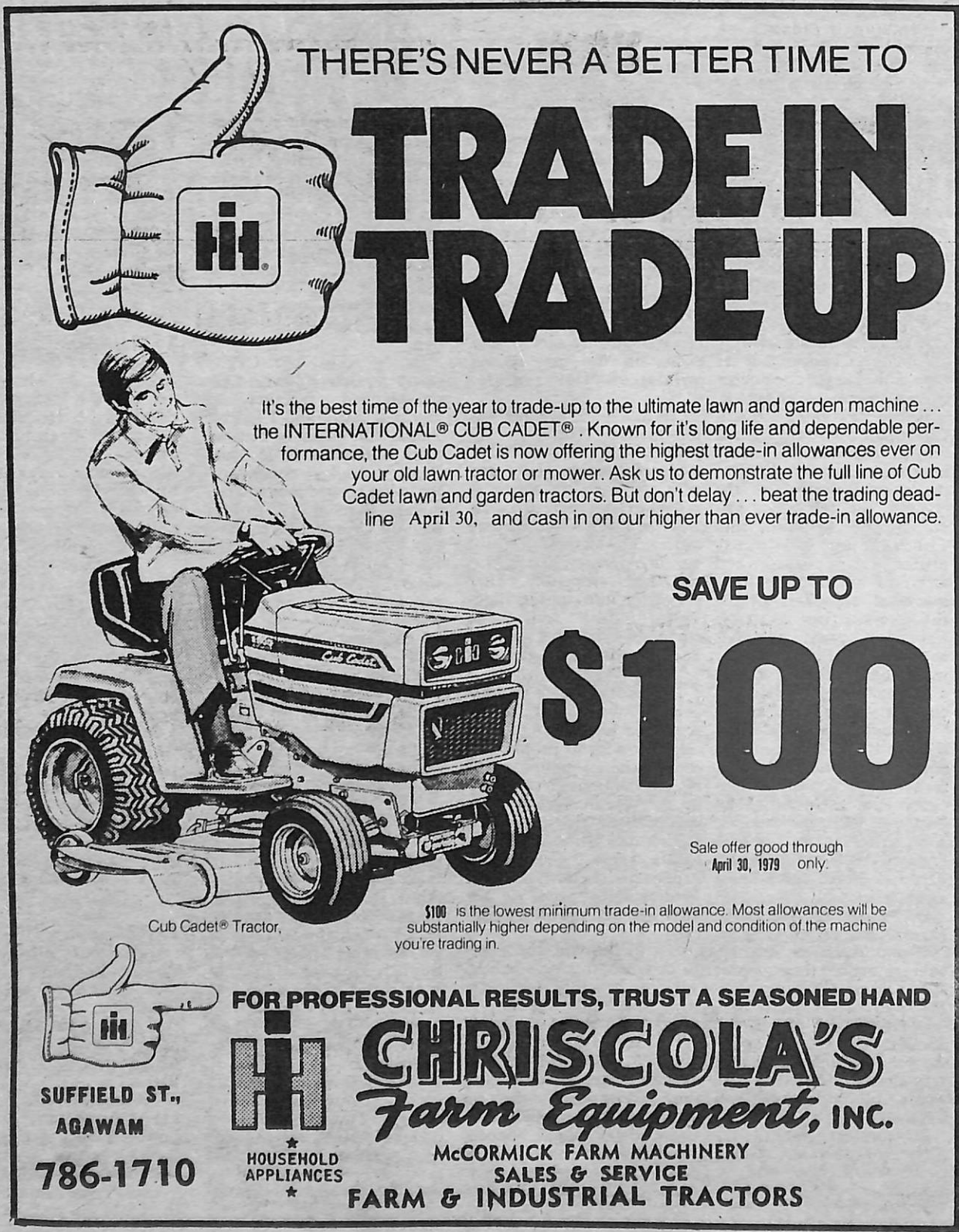
April 17, 1979  
Community Grange Meeting  
Grange Home, No. West St., Feeding Hills  
7:30 p.m.

April 16, 1979  
Jaycees Forum on Kennedy Assassination  
Agawam Baptist Church  
7:30 p.m.

April 25, 1979  
B.S.A. Knox Trail District Awards Night  
Squires Restaurant  
5:30 p.m.

April 27, 1979  
Western Mass Heart Association Record Hop  
Silver Carriage Inn  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

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# Editorials

## COMMENTARY

### Beltrandi Project Stirs Local Politics

by Ric Sardella

It's not everyday someone comes along and proposes an estimated 55 million dollar business-industrial park right in the middle of the Feeding Hills section of Agawam.

When local developer John Beltrandi did just that in February, the wheels of Town politics began churning at an accelerated pace. But Beltrandi was not solely responsible for the elevation of much needed citizen activism and interest back into the circles of Agawam politics.

Beltrandi made his announcement in or about the same time a group from outside the community was attempting to bring dog racing into Agawam and when Frank Solitario, another local developer, was revealing his plans for some 600 condominium units on an 85 acre parcel off South Street.

This trio of projects startled Town residents who have been asleep in the deep when it comes to the mechanisms of municipal government in Agawam. The Planning Board in particular has been spotlighted by these developments. Another group, the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission, has made it quite clear during the Planning Board's public hearings on Beltrandi and Solitario that they do not approve of the developments. A group calling themselves the Agawam Citizens Together Committee is organizing residents to oppose the developments. The race track has since been thrown in the towel. The jury is still out on the Beltrandi and Solitario proposals, although it is apparent Beltrandi has some public support.

At an April 5 public hearing conducted by the Planning Board, all of the above entity's gathered at the Junior High Auditorium to hear the outlying of the business-industrial park by Beltrandi and Leon Charkoudian, a well known State House personality. Charkoudian has been tabbed as the co-sponsor of this enormous endeavor.

Before Planning Board Chairman Ronald Huot opened the meeting, many interested residents gazed at the colored designs of the complex the developers had on display. Beltrandi and Charkoudian busily explained their concept and answered questions to these interested onlookers during the pre-meeting activity. Thomas Cooney, a senior consultant for the LPVRC was among those who wanted a first hand look at what this entire matter was all about.

A steady stream of Town Councilors made their appearance into the proceedings. Seen were Councilors Paul Fieldstad, John Bartnick, Richard Theroux, John McNamara, Floyd Landers, Robert DeForge, Frederick Nardi and Donald Laduzenski.

So far, Theroux and Kenneth Barnes, who was not present at the public hearing, have announced their support for Beltrandi's complex. Fieldstad and McNamara have not made any bones about their ill feelings toward the project. McNamara lives very close to where the park would be constructed off South-West Street.

As for the rest of the Council, no one has made a commitment one way or another as of yet. And if various Councilors have made up their minds, no one is

saying. The Council has set an April 25 date as their public hearing for the Beltrandi-Charkoudian project. Perhaps at this time, one could begin to guess what the sentiments are of those up for election next fall.

The major theme of the meeting seemed to be that on one side of the fence, there were the abutters and other Feeding Hills residents who deem this project as a traffic hazard and added burden on their area and the entire town. They simply do not trust that Beltrandi will stick by his guns and come up with what he says he will. Approximately 148 residents signed a statement saying they were in opposition to the project. Nine of them spoke against the project, many of whom live in Feeding Hills. Referrals were also made against Pheasant Hill, a housing project that the same two developers have constructed very close to the proposed business park. No doubt, some people are still very upset about the Pheasant Hill facility, being in their neighborhood.

On the other side of the coin, 60 residents signed a statement saying they were in favor of the complex. These people feel that the Town can only benefit from the business park in an economical respect. It seems they believe the term "bedroom community" has left Agawam with many unemployed people along with an excessive tax rate.

The proceedings were conducted fairly well by the Planning Board. Board member Robert Bergin was especially effective in dealing with questions that were quite pertinent to the issue. Some questions asked of the developers by residents were equally informative, although there was an element present at the hearing to abuse it with their particular point of view. The normal applause and counter applause that goes on at these efforts to democratize the system only served as a exhibition to get certain points of view across.

All in all, the evening was informative. There is still plenty of inconclusive evidence floating about and perhaps, when the puzzle is assembled in a more definable way, the answers will be found exactly how this project will benefit Agawam, and how it will not. Hopefully, after taking this into consideration, Town fathers will make decisions that is for the betterment of Agawam.

Beltrandi contends that his project will spur much economic life into Agawam, create jobs for its people, and elevate the community into major economic prominence in this area. Actually, no matter how many studies and reports are done, one will never know what could happen to the 255 acres in Feeding Hills. Some do not wish to take that chance.

But the bottom line seems to be trust. If people believe what the developers decree is true, then the response is positive in nature.

If people do not trust Beltrandi and Charkoudian's park and its positive effect on Agawam, which the developers claim would happen, then the reaction is negative. Maybe it is not as clear cut as that. But following this matter since its beginning points to TRUST as the bottom line.

## From the State House

by Rep. Edward W. Connelly  
Third Hampden District

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives this week soundly trounced a bill calling for a constitutional convention to consider an amendment mandating a balanced federal budget.

In order to hold such a convention, thirty-four states must call for it. Massachusetts will not be one of them now... and this is a shame.

Since 1960, the federal budget has been balanced only once. As a result, the federal deficit is at \$858 billion. An unbalanced FY '80 budget, as currently proposed, will hike the federal deficit to \$888 billion... an increase of \$29 billion over FY '79.

### UNBALANCED BUDGET...

The cost of living has doubled in the last eleven years and inflation is now running at ten percent. Congress has proven it is unwilling, or unable, to control federal spending. Many legislatures across the country feel it is up to the states to go over Congress' head and require that the federal budget be balanced. So far, twenty-seven states have voted in favor of a constitutional convention for the purpose of balancing the budget. Massachusetts would have been the 28th had the legislature here not voted against it this week.

### DO WE NEED IT?...

If the federal budget were balanced, inflation would be reduced... less government borrowing would reduce interest rates. Also, with a balanced budget the unemployment rate could decrease since more money would be available to the private sector. This would stimulate their growth rate and encourage hiring. And, if the budget were balanced at the federal level, Americans might see, for the first time in years, a reduction in wasteful federal spending since all expenditures would have to be apud for with current revenues.

### TAX TIME....

Since April 16 is a state holiday, state and federal income taxes will not be due until April 17, 1979.



## LETTERS

### TO THE EDITOR

#### To the Editor:

As a resident of Agawam and a supporter of the proposed "Feeding Hills Business Park," I have decided that the only way to get Route 57 completed and our Business Park approved by our regional planners is to hire the OPEC oil cartel to represent the Town of Agawam with our learned Regional Planning Association.

In Agawam, our OPEC representatives have four well-planned facilities to negotiate with, and I feel we should use them to become more competitive in our Pioneer Valley community for much needed jobs and tax dollars. Remember, Agawam is unique. We exclusively have (1) Provin Mountain Reservoir (we pay for our own water). OPEC could get \$10 per barrel. For that, ours would be free. (2) Regional dump (The sea gulls are so active that neighbors use their windshield wipers all the time.) OPEC could look for \$12 per barrel on waste. Who else wants it!! (3) Regional sewage plant (The aroma in Eastern Agawam is unique. You always know which end of town you're in.) Say, \$20 per barrel. (4) Route 57, west to east (try to get off when you're heading down from Feeding Hills). Let's make this a "one-way inter-town highway" with a cul-de-sac at Southwick and Springfield. Look at the "uncongestion" we would have at the South End Bridge. We'll use the fees from the sewage, water, and dump to finish the highway.

Last, but not least, we had better get our Route 57 and Business Park as quickly as possible before our regional planners find an abandoned farm in Feeding Hills to, possibly in the future, dump nuclear waste. Why not, we

have every other type of waste from all our good neighbors.

The extension of Route 57 and a successful business park in Agawam may just put Agawam out front - where it belongs. Now that's something to think about.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlene Grasso

#### To The Editor:

In reply to the editorial of April 3rd, by Mr. Guevin.

I am not defending any remark attributed to Chairman Borgatti at the March 27th School Committee meeting. Any comments by the Chairman are his responsibility, and do not reflect the opinion of the entire Committee.

I do however take issue with your statement questioning fair and honest treatment to Agawam parents by the Committee. To judge all members of the Committee because of a remark by one individual is unfair to this body.

In the many meetings that you have attended, I believe you have observed the courtesy and interest extended to anyone who attends a School Committee meeting.

School Committeeman  
Walter A. Balboni

#### To the Editor:

Greetings to all owners of the canine species.

A friendly, but firm suggestion from one of Agawam's homeowners who takes pride in his lawn, but who doesn't own "man's best friend."

I respect and like dogs who are truly beautiful animals; however, there is a leash law for the benefit of Agawam citizens.

I find it very unfair to have to constantly pick up canine

litter and repair holes on my property which are the result of free-running dogs. My lawn is as important to me as your pet is to you.

If you do not obey the law, how can you consider yourself a good citizen?  
Name withheld by request

#### To the Editor:

This letter should clear up a few misconceptions about the actions of the Board of Appeals on the Pheasant Hill project.

I recently read that Feeding Hills was "raped" by allowing this project to be built. This was not a case of rape, but a state-mandated, forced marriage by Chapter 744 of the act of 1969 (H5581). The purpose of this act was to increase the supply and improve the regional distribution of low and moderate income housing by allowing a limited suspension of local zoning regulations. This is called snob-zoning and means that you can put the project in anywhere in Agawam. I also states in the law that if the Board of Appeals denies or grants a permit with conditions which would make building uneconomic then the Dept. of Commercial Affairs would order the Board of Appeals to issue a permit.

The Board of Appeals went to the Dept. of Commercial Affairs seminar held in Worcester and we asked the chairman this question: What occurs if our board denies this permit to construct 780 units?

The answer - We will approve the plans as presented by the developers and if you impose too many requirements so as to make the project uneconomically feasible, then we will eliminate those requirements and order you to issue the permit.

We also were appraised of the fact that 20 towns or cities that did deny the developers were ordered to issue the permits as proposed by the developers.

I hope you can realize the predicament we were in. Hendom Heights, all of Feeding Hills, and most of Agawam were up in arms. Groups were formed, lawyers hired, all avenues of escape were probed and, yet, the end result by a unanimous vote of 3 to 0, the Board of Appeals "reluctantly" granted the applicant a comprehensive permit subject to the following conditions and requirements. Everything I am going to list is at the applicants sole expense.

1. Replace 900-plus feet of existing sewer pipe on South West Street with 12-inch sewer pipe
2. Replace 300-plus feet of 8-inch sewer pipe at top of Hendom Drive with a 10-inch pipe
3. Replace 2625-plus existing 6-inch force main pipe from pumping station to top of Hendom Drive with 8-inch force main pipe - a later requirement retained the 6-inch line as a safety line.
4. Replace or revise the pumping station wet well standby elect generator and other related facilities to handle a 600 G.P.M. load and install a 80 H.P. motor and needed facilities
5. Plans for 1 through 4 above and all sewer construction within Pheasant Hill must be approved by the Town Engineer.
6. Permits for sanitary sewers must be approved by the D.P.W. and by the state water pollution control board
7. All easements or releases for working in public ways be obtained by the applicant
8. All roadways disturbed by above installations be overlaid for its entire width.

- No patching.
- B. Water Service  
12-inch water main on South-Westfield Street between Shoemaker lane and Hendom Drive and on

Hendom Drive between South Westfield Street and Elmar Drive

A hydraulic valve to regulate the water pressure so as to maintain a residual pressure of 20 p.s.i.

Install water systems within and without the project as submitted and to be approved the D.P.W.

Get permits from the D.P.W. to work in public ways

Again all roads to be resurfaced completely; no patching

Water system to be designed and constructed and approved by the Fire Dept. so as to have a 1200 G.P.M. flow at 20 p.s.i. preserved at all times.

No apartment to be occupied and no certificate of occupancy until all foregoing requirements are completely approved.

#### Surface Drainage

All conservation plans and specs for entire system must be approved by the Town Engineer and conservation commission

Meet with Conservation Commission and get approval on all their requirements.

Buffer zones of evergreen trees on all locations abutting on residential properties.

Agawam Housing Authority to determine rental priority. First preference to Agawam residents and Agawam parents and children of Agawam residents and to work within the state requirements

Properly designed recreational facilities as per approved plans.

Insure adequate mosquito control as approved by the Conservation Commission.

All utilities shall be underground and all easements deeded to the Town.

All rubbish will be the developers responsibility and containers will be 25 feet from the buildings and shielded from view.

A full page of inspection requirements and method of revocation of permit for listed violations.

A couple of pages of other legal beneficial requirements for Agawam too long to list here.

And the whole permit is 17 pages long.

Just last fall we convinced the developer to enlarge the recreational building, and in December, we met with the Agawam Housing Authority and the present owners to insure that rental priorities as defined in the permit be followed.

Each member of the Board of Appeals has put in more than 250 hours a piece on this ongoing project, and we are still committed to many more watchful hours of surveillance.

May the foregoing facts enlighten the citizens as to why Pheasant Hill was built.

Jerry Zerra

#### To the Editor:

In reading the budget cuts in last week's paper, I noticed that Mr. Caputo failed to inform the public about the cutting of the park and recreation programs in town. Specifically, the school baton program, which has been run very successfully for the past seven years by Nancy Locke.

This baton group is the only one of its kind around here. They represent the town in the local parades and do a very good job of it.

The children can't understand why it won't be there for them next year. I think that this has been handled very poorly. Most parents were very surprised to hear the news and very upset. In order to meet his tax promises, he has been very unfair to the children in town.

If you care about this and want the baton classes continued in the schools, please write your letters to

continued on page 9



### Letters to the Editor

continued from page 8

Mr. Caputo and to your council members.

There is also a speak-time for the people in town first before the Town Council meeting on Monday, April 16th, at approximately 7:30 p.m. The more people we have there at this time the better.

Mrs. Carole Parent

### To The Editor:

The Agawam police have run the Town's ambulance service for over the last 25 years. The last 2 years have been on a 50-50 basis with the fire department.

On April 4, the fire department took over the ambulance 100 per cent. Along with the ambulance came a raise in pay for the ambulance attendants' EMTs and several thousand dollars added to the fire department budget for this service. The firemen EMTs who run the ambulance certainly deserve a differential in pay for their additional duties and responsibility. They are a real credit to their department and the Town.

One may ask why the police are no longer working the ambulance service when it cost the Town no additional

money for the police EMT. The police department had as many as 20 trained EMTs at one time, which cost them close to one thousand dollars apiece to train. The fire department has about 6 trained EMTs and must pay overtime in order to supply service around the clock.

When James Westman was town manager, he had a survey done of the police department. This was known as the McCan survey. Mr. McCan had stated the ambulance service did not belong in the police service and it looks like the Police Chief and Mr. Caputo agree. The McCan survey also made a recommendation of cuts in police department personnel. Now that the police department has given up the ambulance service, it would seem they would have more than adequate manpower to perform police duties.

Will our Town Council take a close look at the police department budget and recommended action of the McCan survey or will they act because of the politicking being done by certain department members?

Leonard P. Rising, Jr.  
Feeding Hills

### Commentary...

by Joanne Brown

During the past week, the Enrollment Facilities Studies Committee began making its report on what it has accomplished investigating the declining elementary school enrollment and working out a feasible plan of action. The proposed plan has already been presented to parent groups at Phelps and Robinson Park Schools and will be explained at each of the other elementary schools in the coming weeks.

I strongly urge parents to attend one of these meetings to hear the report and understand fully the planned redistricting of our school system.

The committee, which is composed of administrators, teachers, and parents and has been coordinated by James Loomis, devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy studying the alternatives and have produced a plan that seems reasonable in light of the statistics they have discovered.

There seems to be no question of Agawam having a declining enrollment at the elementary school level and that elimination of classrooms and, eventually, of schools will be necessary. Along with that fact is the present situation which finds in town some class sizes of 17 and others of 33. One of the principal objectives set by the committee from the beginning was to equalize classroom numbers throughout the school system, and their plan, as presented, fulfills this goal.

It should be understood that some students will be shifted as in any redistricting effort such as this, but with this proposed plan, the moving has been kept to a minimum and involves neighborhoods being shifted, not isolated individuals.

I would like to encourage parents to remember that their approach towards any change in school will profoundly influence the attitude with which their children make the move. If you, as parents, present the shift in a positive manner, your children will benefit tremendously in their attempts to adapt to a different school.

### CETA Jobs Available

The Outreach Program of Hampden County, a program designed to increase the availability of qualified applicants for the county's CETA Program, has announced a major recruitment drive that would fill 400-475 public service jobs with unemployed and unskilled people from the Hampden County area, excluding the City of Springfield.

Many cities and towns in Hampden County have close to 100 CETA jobs for immediate occupancy. Employment opportunities vary from general and skilled labor to clerical and engineering jobs.

In Agawam and West Springfield, there are approximately 35 positions available including health care, engineering, forestry, clerical, librarian, machine repair, custodial, and counseling.

The Outreach Program can give the following assistance: help with eligibility requirements, job counseling and career guidance, referrals to CETA Intake Centers, and solving problematical areas of concern.

The Outreach Program is based in Holyoke, funded by the Hampden County Manpower Consortium, and is a program of the Center for Human Development. Call Outreach at 536-8810.

### Deadline for Filing Tax Returns is April 17th

Commissioner L. Joyce Hampers of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue today reminded taxpayers the deadline for filing their 1978 state income tax returns is midnight, April 17.

The two-day grace period beyond the usual filing date was granted because the 15th is a Sunday and the following day is the Patriots Day holiday, both non-business days. Returns must be postmarked no later than midnight of Tuesday, the 17th, to be on time.

Meanwhile, with filings accelerating daily, Commissioner Hampers said the department mailed 99,977

refunds totaling \$11.3 million this week.

The total thus far is 715,063 refunds representing more than \$78.2 million worth of smiles on taxpayers' faces.

Of the latest number of returns handled, about 10 per cent were rejected by the processing system due to mathematical mistakes, failure to sign, failure to include a copy of the Wage and Tax Statement, incorrect or missing addresses and social security numbers.

People who file now can expect a 5-6 week wait for their refunds, longer if their returns contain errors or are incomplete.



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## Herbal Luncheon at Storowtown

Storowtown Village Museum will hold its annual Luncheon Tuesday, April 17th at noon in the Stagecoach Barn on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

The event, sponsored by Storowtown's Volunteer Services, will include taste tempting Spring greens, herbal breads, vegetables and much more.

Following luncheon will be a brief presentation on the preparation of the featured foods. In addition, advice will be given on the planting of herb gardens.

Reservations are required through June Cook, Museum Director. Call 736-0632 before April 16th.



The Sea Scouts are pictured above. Front row, from left to right: Dave Lafleur, Mat Blackack, Billy Dowd, Tom Gorman, and William Dempsey. Second row, same order: Frank Barker, Robert Dempsey, Mike Fay, Tom Foley, Norman Gilbert and Fred Delbono. photo by Jack Devine

## Rev. Williams Announced Guest Speaker

The guest speaker on Maundy Thursday at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church will be the Rev. Dr. Alfred E. Williams, minister and president of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Williams is a graduate of Washington High School, Massillon, Ohio, and of Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio. He earned a B.D. and an S.T.M. degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York City and was awarded an honorary D.D. degree from Eden Seminary, Long Grove, Illinois. He was ordained in the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1956.

Rev. Williams serves as chairperson on the Advisory Committee on the World Food Crisis of the United

Church Board for World Ministries. After spending a sabbatical studying the church's efforts in agricultural development in Africa (1974-1975), Rev. Williams composed a study which led the Illinois Conference to establish special UCC projects in Ghana, Togo, and India. He also helped establish "Bread for the World" in Illinois, one of the first states to establish a statewide chapter.

Rev. Williams is the author of *Dilemmas and Decisions*, a resource book for young people. He has also composed and written a musical play entitled *I See Sunshine*, based on the life of Noah.

The worship service will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is open to all. A coffee hour will follow.

## Sea Scouts Hold Ziti Dinner

The Agawam Sea Scouts are in the process of refinishing a boat as part of their Sea Scout activities. To raise money for their project, they are holding a Ziti and meatball supper on May 5, 1979 from 5-7 p.m. at the Agawam Middle School.

The dinner, which is being put on by the Agawam Lions Club, is open to the public, and tickets may be obtained from Agawam Lions Club members and members of the Agawam Sea Scout Ship 1.

The Sea Scouts are looking for boys and girls who are 14 years old and older who are interested in boating. The Sea Scouts take trips to Cape Cod and the rest of New England. For more information call William H. Dempsey at 786-5116 after 2:00 p.m.

## Children's Programs at 'Laughing Brook

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Laughing Brook Education Center is holding two nature-related programs for children during the school vacation week, beginning Monday, April 16.

For children in grades 1-3, Spring Explorations will be their introduction to the fascinating world of plants and animals. The five-day program is held from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Here, children will be able to explore the simple requirements needed by living things and see how plants and animals depend upon one another.

Daily activities to help sharpen the senses will also lead to a discovery of the many signs of spring to be found.

For children in grades 4-7, *Spring Young Naturalists* is a action-oriented program to foster an appreciation for the diversity of life found around us. Craft making, stream exploration and environmental games will help teach about the similarities and differences of living plants and animals.

The *Springtime Young Naturalists* program is also held the five days during school vacation week from 1 to 4 p.m. each day.

Registration for these two programs is limited. For more information, call Laughing Brook at 566-3571.

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## Our Feathered Friends

by Mary Os

Attracting birds to your garden will be easier if you also have a lush green lawn and some source of water to offer contrast to the flowers, shrubs, and trees.

While it is a great temptation to treat your lawn with all sorts of chemicals to keep the pest population down, I urge you to consider carefully just what it is you are adding to the ground. Many pesticides have harmful effects upon the birds into whose systems the chemicals ultimately go. If given a fair chance, the birds will do a rather effective job of keeping down grubs, beetles, moths, mosquitos, and other insects around the yard. Choose a beetle trap rather than a grub poison for controlling these pests. By always choosing the route that uses the least amount of poisonous chemicals, you will be helping to preserve the bird population.

Birds begin the important process of preening with a bath. If you are lucky enough to have a natural source of water near your yard, you will enjoy watching your avian friends cleanse themselves. If not, you might want to consider providing some water source for their use.

Traditional birdbaths are popular and not necessarily expensive. One with a lip around the edge will afford the birds a perch. If the bowl is made of porous material, accidental slides into the water will be avoided. Choose one with a blue-tinted bowl that is gently sloped. There is no need to have the water exceed a depth of two inches; in hot weather, this will mean a lot of attention. Emptying and cleaning the bowl on a

daily basis would be a good habit to form.

Perhaps you are more enterprising and would like to construct a concrete pool with all the accouterments. A non-poisonous sealer is a must. Place some sort of perch emerging from the water near the center of the pond to act as a resting spot for small birds.

You will want to stock your pond with plant life and fish. A local aquarium shop should be able to help you select the proper plants for this location and give you instructions on planting.

The fish you introduce will keep down the mosquito population. Goldfish are always a popular choice, but perhaps a more economical selection to begin with would be minnows. After the minnows have established the proper conditions in the pool, you may want to add more exotic types, bearing in mind the size of the pool and the living requirements of the fish.

A small, commercial birdbath might be all you want to handle and can be effective. Because birds get rather involved with their bathing, place the bath far away from any place a cat might hide. Birds are attracted much more readily to moving water so you might contrive some type of slow drip into the bath. A bucket with a tiny hole in the bottom placed above the bath is one means of providing a slow drip.

On whatever scale, providing water during the summer months will almost assuredly attract many more birds to your yard. A nice green lawn will increase the effect.

## Catholic Women's Club To Meet

The April meeting of the Agawam Catholic Women's Club will be on Monday, April 16, at 8:00 in St. John's Parish Center.

The nominating committee Mrs. Joseph Lovotti, Mrs. Walter O'Connor, and Mrs. Louis Plante, will present a slate of officers for the coming year. A fun-and-games evening is being planned under the direction of Mrs. Philip DeForge.

Mrs. Arthur B. Fortier and Mrs. Stephen Jacaparo, cochairpersons of hospitality, will be assisted by members of their committee.

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## Sunshine Through My Window

by Rita White

I have always loved the warmth of the sun shining through a window. But add to that the beauty of the sun when seen through a sun catcher. In case you don't know what a sun catcher is, it is a leaded glass creation that catches the sun through its various colors to shine like jewels.

This week we'll meet an Agawam craftsman who has let this craft become a way of life for him.

A few words first about the craft itself. History tells us that actual proof of glass manufacturing can be traced to somewhere between 1510 and 1349 B.C. in Egypt. But because of the advanced stage of development found, it is believed to have been developed elsewhere and much sooner. The Romans sometimes used colored glass set in a lattice of bronze for windows. But in general, the art of stained glass seemed to evolve at a much later time. The artists themselves had to use other art forms as models, such as the mosaic and the fresco for example.

Religion played a great part in the development of this art and we are probably most familiar with stained glass from today's church and cathedral windows.

But lead glass is very popular today and while we don't have large stained glass windows in our homes, many of us do have lamps, planters and sun catchers to name a few of the leaded glass creations.

Charles, Lucky to his friends, Larson is one of Agawam's finest crafters in leaded glass. Charles admits to being a one-time television addict. Nothing could drag him away from in front of a T.V. set. But wife Phyllis who we'll talk about later, finally convinced him to try a hobby. He went to an arts and crafts class in leaded glass, firmly convinced he wouldn't like it and couldn't do it. The T.V. set doesn't get much use anymore.

Charles Larson loves his craft and not only did he find he could do it, he does it extremely well. Charles started his craft in 1976 and exhibited at 6 shows that year. Now he does about 20 shows a year.

Charles has taken a real interest in the Arts and crafts world aside from his own

craft. He is a member of the Conn. Guild of Craftsmen and serves on the advisory board of the Storowtown Village Museum in West Springfield. His interest led him to being one of the founders of the Storowtown Village Crafters. This is an organization dedicated to keeping the art of Early American crafts alive and what better place for the group to operate than Storowtown Village.

Aside from his craft, Charles loves the craft shows. He says it is a chance to meet some people he'd never meet otherwise and he has made many friends along the craft show circuit.

When asked how long it took him to learn this craft he said he was still learning. It would seem the various designs and techniques are endless. Charles says a sun catcher takes approximately half an hour to create, but some lamps take 40 to 60 hours. And in the case of a Tiffany reproduction, it can take anywhere from 200 to 300 hours and upward. Certainly a way to keep busy.

Not that Charles needs something to keep busy. He is employed at Mass. Mutual Life Ins. Co. where he is manager of Computer Operations.

There is a saying, "The family that plays together, stays together." Charles and wife Phyllis carry that a step further, not only play, but

work.

Phyllis Larson also works at Mass. Mutual and is also a craftsman. Phyllis's talent is in the crocheting of baby afghans and in the creating of macrame items. Anyone seeing her macrame jewelry will see much pride and patience, two of the ingredients needed to make a successful craftsman.

Phyllis of course joins Charles at the craft shows, one of which is the upcoming Artisan Village Arts & Crafts show in Holyoke on April 22. Their work can also be found at the Country Mouse House in Agawam.

Here's hoping this craft show season is a good one for Charles and Phyllis Larson.

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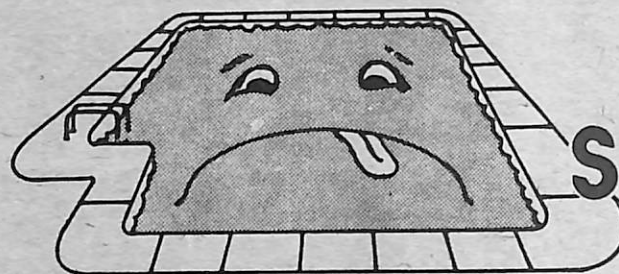


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# Sports

## Southwick Hockey News

Southwick's Green Machine lost its last two games of the playoffs to more disciplined teams - to Van Horn 7-3 and to the ever-strong Holyoke 3-1. This year we gave the teams in our division a good run for their money, and they respected us for it.

Patrick McDonnell, our leading scorer with 34 goals this year, scored two more goals in the Van Horn game. Skip Hathaway got the final goal assisted by McDonnell.

The Holyoke game was very close with Andre Chabot scoring the lone Southwick goal assisted by Chuck Wilson and Russell Sabadosa.

The goal of the Green Machine this year was to make the playoffs and they did. They played the best hockey they could all season.

The coaches want to thank the team for its hard work and competitive attitude and to wish them all good luck.



Members of the Robinson Park Volleyball team are pictured above. Front row, left to right: Jeff Nardi, James Lockwood, David Dussault, Peter Saracino, Michael Neal, and William Chiaramida. Second row, same order: Anthony Ferreiro, teacher and coach; Christine Menard, Kelly Clarke, Abbie Sheehan, Shaun O'Keefe, Dawn Donatini, and Sonya Feeney. photo by Jack Devine



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## Volleyball Results at Robinson Park School

For the fourth consecutive winter, a fifth-grade volleyball league was held at Robinson Park School. The league arose as an answer to what to do on those "too-cold-to-go-out" winter recesses.

Last year, six teams participated in the league, while this year, the total was eight. The rules and regulations have been modified to suit fifth graders.

The games are played on Wednesdays and Fridays during the noon recess in the school gym. Each team plays seven games, with the top four teams going into a special playoff round. The winner of the playoff round then has the opportunity to play the fifth-grade teachers in a special exhibition series:

The league has been successfully received by both teachers and students. This year, approximately 100 boys and girls took part in this program, with the Knockouts

emerging as league champs with an unblemished 7 wins and no loss record.

The idea for the league was conceived by Tony Ferreira, a fifth-grade teacher who donates his free time to run and coordinate the league.

Members of the champion Knockouts are Sonya Feeney, Kelly Clarke, Dawn Donatini, Abbie Sheehan, Sharon O'Keefe, Chris Menard, Tim Lockwood, Mike Neal, Jeff Nardi, Dave Dussault, Pete Saracino, and Billy Chiaramida.

## Blackhawks Finish in Second

The Agawam 10-12A Blackhawks, coached by Ed Drewnowski, finished the 1978-79 hockey season in second place following the playoffs.

The two final playoff games, with wins over Chicopee and Westfield, ended a very fine season. The Blackhawks lost only one game in the playoffs and that was to Van Horn.

Agawam defeated Chicopee by a score of 5-1 with goals scored by Dean Liptak, John Spellacy, Jay Passerini, Peter Sibilia, and Joe Dussault, who had a great shot into an empty net. Assists on goals went to Mike Santori, Dennis Drewnowski, Joe Dussault, Bill Beauregard, Paul Ferraro, Jay Passerini, and Kevin Mercadante.

The final game of the year

was against Westfield, a team which has been trouble all year. Jay Passerini scored two goals and John O'Malley got one to lead Agawam to a 3-1 victory. Erik Blanchard and Chris Juzba were credited with assists.

Once again, special mention should be made of the outstanding goaltending the Blackhawks received all season from Dave Liptak. Without his fine playing, the end result in many games would have been different.

A special thanks is extended to parents who supported the Blackhawks so wholeheartedly all season long and to Coach Ed Drewnowski, who gave so much of his time and was so patient at times when patience was surely a virtue.

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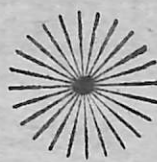
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## Sportsmen's Corner

by Bill Chiba



Fishing is very good east of the Connecticut River. The wife and I checked several ponds and noted a substantial amount of activity. I counted 14 boats trolling the flat water and 18 shore fishermen.

The boats were taking some fish. A local angler boasted about the size of fish that were planted by the Division. He was very excited about the large stripers the crew plunked into the pond. They are part of a breeder lot that is being divided for stocking in various ponds throughout the Commonwealth.

Congamond is being fished hard, and many fish are being taken. We met one angler the ramp who had a 22 inch rainbow on his stringer. He said that a little black fly did the job for him. He was fishing on top.

Big Alum is producing. We saw a stringer of seven nice rainbows caught by three anglers in a boat. The ramp had about 12 trailer rigs on it. Ponds East have been stocked with the first allotment of fish.

We have received questions about the Pittman-Robertson money available to sporting organizations and community agencies. The last column

a maximum of 40 pounds.

If you are considering going turkey hunting in May in Vermont, the following facts might help you to a successful hunt. Wild turkeys prefer a habitat that is wooded with clearings. About 84% of his food is plant life and 16% is animal matter. The turkey eats many of the same foods as whitetail deer, and the two species often range together and, at times, compete for the same food.

Two years ago, while bowhunting in Vermont, I had a flock of round 30 birds feed right through the area I was watching for deer. It was two days before the turkey season opened. Later that week, in the same tree stand, I noticed a flock skirting the area. I believe that they knew that the season was open and knew I was there.

The turkey is shy and alert, very cautious, and can move quietly to elude enemies. It has an extraordinary sense of hearing and eyesight, but like most birds, has no sense of smell.

The sexes usually stay separated except during the mating season. It will make a notable "gobble" around dawn and dusk, primarily during the mating season. They roost in a tree at night. The sound of the gobble is what the hunter is waiting for and tries to imitate with an artificial hand or mouth call.

I wish you luck in your try for a Vermont gobbler.

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Laughing Brook Education Center in Hampden is hosting a special Easter Program for children ages 6 and under.

On Easter Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m., Laughing Brook's own Mother West Wind will read animal stories and tell tales of the meaning of Easter. Of course, Peter Rabbit will be a main character of the collection of short stories, riddles and games prepared by Mother West Wind.

Laughing Brook is the former home of famed children's author, Thornton W. Burgess. The Massachusetts Audubon Society purchased Laughing Brook in 1966 and expanded the original landholding to the present 260 acres of woodlands, fields and streams.

The Easter Program with Mother West Wind is free to sanctuary visitors paying regular admission. Regular admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$.50 for children and free for members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.



## Spring Sizzler At Stafford;

The eighth annual "Spring Sizzler," which will be run on Saturday and Sunday, April 14th and 15th, at the Stafford Motor Speedway, will feature some of the hottest drivers in the sport.

Coming back to Stafford this year to see if he can make it two in a row is Maynard Troyer, who put on a splendid duel last year with Geoff Bodine.

Also in the field this year will be another two-time winner, the Rapid Roman, Richie Evans from Rome, New York.

Also, you can't count out Ron Bouchard, who has just taken the Icebreaker at Thompson, and Agawam's own John Rosati, who has been running really strong so

far this year. John, runner-up to Bouchard last week at Thompson, looks like a strong favorite to take the sizzler.

On Saturday, there will be time trials and heats. On Sunday, there will be heats and consi-events for the "Non-Qualifiers Race," which will be a 50-lap event followed by the 80-lap "Sizzler."

Last year, a record crowd of better than 13,000 attended this event which is the biggest event of the year, so don't be left out. Get your tickets for the race of the year, Saturday and Sunday, April 14th and 15th, at the Stafford Motor Speedway, Stafford Springs, Connecticut.

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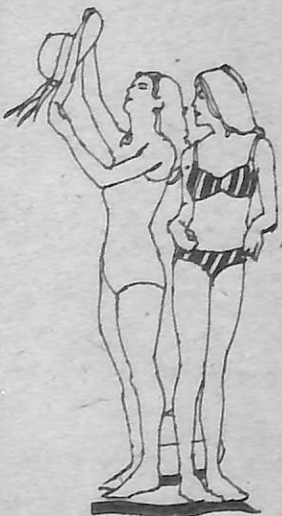
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The Agawam Hockey Association's 10-12 A team is pictured above. From left to right, first row: Dennis Drewnowski, Dean Liptak, Peter Sibilia, Dave Liptak, Jay Passerini, John O'Malley, and John Spellacy. Second row, same order: Kevin Mercadante, Chris Juzba, Erik Blanchard, Joe Dussault, Paul Ferraro, Billy Beaufegard, Mike Santore and coach Ed Drewnowski. photo by Jack Devine



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## Spotlight on Business

### Line Right Safety Service



Line Right Safety Service, located at 1676 Main Street, Agawam, specializes in front end motor vehicle work, including wheel alignment, balancing, brakes and general repair. Operated by two brothers, Daniel and Donald Tebaldi, Line Right has been open for business under that name for the past six months.

Recently, Line Right has expanded, and 2,100 additional square feet of space has made it possible for them to do front end work on trucks up to 10 feet high as well as on cars. They have new Beeline alignment equipment and several new machines which do one-the-car wheel balancing, a much requested service.

Be sure to consider Line Right when you may need any front end repairs done to your vehicle.

### Springtime Wildflowers at Laughing Brook

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Laughing Brook Education Center in Hampden is holding a three-session course for people interested in learning about the springtime wildflowers found in New England. The program meets Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon beginning April 11.

William Doty, an area botanist will instruct participants on the methods used to identify the flowers that appear during this season. Books, keys and other guides to aid people in learning more about wildflowers will be discussed.

The Spring Wildflowers course is open to the public and a fee is charged. For more information, call Laughing Brook at (413)566-3571.



We hope you are all enjoying "Kids' Korner" as much as we are. Please be sure and send us your answers to our questions. Even if we've printed the question with some of the answers, we'll be printing more of the answers at a later date. And don't forget to send your poetry.

This week we want to thank Mr. Valentine's 4th grade at Peirce School for this sampling of Haiku poetry about March winds and spring breezes.

You see the rainbow  
With very lovely colors  
And a pot o' gold. By Tina Forgues

Look up in the sky  
I can see a kite over there  
Where the sun goes down. By Kelli Pepper

If I had a wish  
I would run in the breezes  
As the cool wind blows. By Debbie Rickson

March winds blow good luck  
Rainbow kites bring wishes too  
Clouds leave tails of air. By Lisa Bartnik

Green kites fly high  
In cold March winds and tails flap high  
In crisp March breezes. By Jacob Tratiak

The sun is so bright  
The clovers look pretty green  
The breeze is so nice. By David Shlosser

Rainbow colors gleam  
The pot o' gold at the end  
Waiting to bring luck. By Jennifer Heroux

Beautiful cold winds  
Bring fluffy clouds to the sky  
On bright sunny days. By Wendy Trask

Spring buds are pretty  
Sun and air help them to grow  
Rain makes flowers grow. By Glenn Hoo

Little leprechauns  
Find a pot of gold  
In the beautiful spring air. By James Frasco

Crisp March winds make your  
Kite do a seemingly strange  
But magical dance. By Mark Nowacki

Luck has come to March  
Leprechauns are here and there  
And shamrocks shine green. By Anthony Joseph

Elves have great magic  
Leprechauns and gnomes do too  
As they search for gold. By Karen Kosinski

I like little elves  
Bright and happy every day  
When March breezes come. By Shelly deMarinis

March winds blow kites high  
In trees 'til you see the clouds  
Such pretty colors. By Renee Magagnoli

Little leprechauns  
Wish over a green clover  
For a sunny spring. By Kim Proulx

The sun shines brightly  
The cool breezes gently blow  
March is bringing spring. By Jeffrey Barker

March is beautiful  
It is so spring-like and bright  
Sharp winds blow wishes. By Todd Couture

Leprechauns are elves  
Always make wishes come true  
Shamrocks bring good luck. By Daniel Champigny

If you catch a green  
Leprechaun you're in luck  
There's your pot of gold. Timothy Bryant

March winds blow cold air  
As clouds float by in the sky  
And the breeze blows kites. By William Carabetta

How the March winds blow  
Beautiful the kites do fly  
In the clear blue sky. By David Giordano

Kites fly best in March  
They have bright colorful tails  
And need wind to fly. By Sue Girard

#### KIDS KORNER QUESTION

Just one question for everyone this week. Name something that makes you sad and tell us why. You may want to write a poem about it. Send to:

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It's time to hit the ripples again. The A.A.A. Piranhas swim team will hold sign-ups for the Spring-Summer Season on Saturday, April 21 at Agawam High School.

If you are between the ages of 5 and 18, this is your chance to perfect your swimming techniques or develop new ones. Every member who joins swims in meets; there are no bench warmers.

The Piranhas are a growing organization. Proof of this is evident in the results of the Pioneer Valley Swim League championships held in Springfield College Natatorium on February 10 and 11. This event was the culmination of the Winter Swim Season and the goal the swimmers had been working towards since September.

Saturday was elimination day when 1600 swimmers competed for the top 12 places in each event. On Sunday, the top 6 swimmers repeated their event for the championship. The top six places received trophies, and 7-12th place received ribbons. Relay races were also held on Sunday.

A behind-the-scenes portrait of the many hours spent at the natatorium might include some of the following scenes. Coach Judi Gregory and Swim Commissioner Rod Richardson sprinting up and down the pool with stop

watches; timers with wet pants and shoes which froze solid upon leaving the building; bullpen workers chasing down lost towels, T-shirts, earrings, caps, swimmers, and their own voices.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were consumed by the pound, and Hershey's chocolate stock went up 10 points. Two boys who argued all year about who would swim first sat with their arms around each other. Parents and supporters were lavish with their praise and their consolation.

The Piranhas have tried to build a close organization with a lot of parent involvement. From the way everyone pulled together at the championships, it looks like they aren't far off the mark.

Piranha swimmers proudly brought home 81 ribbons and 41 trophies. The following are the names of the trophy winners.

8 & UNDER BOYS: 25-YD. FREE: 4th, Matt Rinaldi; 5th, George Corgan 25-YD BACK: 2nd, Pat O'Brien 50-YD FREE: 4th, Matt Rinaldi; 6th, Pat O'Brien 25-YD BREAST: 4th, Brian Wesley; 6th, Stephen Amato 100-YD MEDLEY REALY: 2nd, Pat O'Brien; Brian Wesley, Matt Rinaldi, Stephen Amato 8 & UNDER GIRLS: 25-YD BACK: 3rd, Jennifer Scalise 25-YD BREAST: 3rd, Carrie Vivenzio 9-10 GIRLS: 100-YD FREE: 5th, Mona LeClair 200-YD FREE RELAY: Chris Briggs, Jennifer Andrews, Heather Mathews, Mona LeClair 11-12 BOYS: 50-YD BUTTERFLY: 5th, Kevin Ritchie 50-YD BACK: 2nd, Paul Talbot 11-12 GIRLS: 50-YD FREE: 3rd, Kim Cascio; 4th, Kristen Smus 50-YD BUTTERFLY: 1st, Diane Wheeler 100-YD FREE: 3rd, Diane Wheeler 13-14 BOYS: 100-YD FREE: 6th, Carl Ritchie 13-14 GIRLS: 200-YD FREE: 4th, Tammie Lucia 200-YD I.M.: 2nd, Nicole Dickman 50-YD FREE: 3rd, Nicole Dickman 100-YD FREE: 6th, Tammie Lucia 200-YD MEDLEY RELAY: 3rd, Debby Sambrook, Nicole Dickman, Sandy Brittain, Tammie Lucia 15-18 GIRLS: 200-YD I.M.: 3rd, Jill Cloran 50-YD FREE: 6th, Natalie Ritchie 100-YD BACK: 2nd, Jill Cloran 200-YD FREE RELAY: 2nd, Lori Richardson, Jill Cloran, Natalie Ritchie, Anna Iacola

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# Down to Earth

by Janet Cook



With vegetable gardening time rapidly sneaking up on us, I would like to let you in on a few secrets that can help with the gardening.

Give a new role to your roll of foil! Aluminum foil can come in very handy as a gardening tool. When the foil is spread on the soil around plants or on top of the mulch, it reflects light and increases photosynthesis of leaves so that crop production can be much greater. This use of aluminum foil works wonders around pepper plants and tomatoe plants. Tests show that the foil also can repel aphids and flea beetles. The increased reflection confuses them and they head for some

other eating spot. Try making an aluminum foil 'sun box'. Lack of sun in early spring can cause a problem with starting vegetable seeds indoors. If you don't have a good indoor light source for your sprouting seedlings, try this.

Set your tiny plants in a cardboard box with the front cut out and the back and sides lined with aluminum foil. When you set this near a window, the foil reflects the light back on the plants; stems grow straighter and the plants will be stronger. These 'sun boxes' can come in handy during the hardening off process. In windy or cold weather, slip the boxes inside clear plastic dry cleaning or rubbish bags and you have a

miniature, portable greenhouse.

I think most of us wonder now and then when to plant our vegetable seedss or plants outside. With each spring being different from the last, we can let mother nature be our guide. Plant peas and other cool season crops once color has developed in tulips and other spring bulbs. Plant mid-season crops such as bush beans and early corn when the leaves first appear on the trees. Try to hold off planting warm season crops such as tomatoes and squash until blossoms appear on apple, cherry, quince and strawberries.

A good way to keep an eye on your garden's water needs

is to plant a few clumps of chrysanthemums in the vegetable garden border. Mums show wilting from lack of water before almost any other plant. You will be able to tell at a glance if your garden needs water. KEEP SMILING! JMC



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